

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ARA-10 ACDA-12 /116 W
-----097591 231515Z /53

R 230245Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7066
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USUN NEW YORK 712
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SEOUL

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 2202

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG (NACC), AF
SUBJECT: AFGHANS HOPE TO DEFUSE TOUCHY ISSUES BEFORE NON-ALIGNED
MEETING AT KABUL

1. FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH INFORMED ME ON MARCH 19
THAT HE WILL DEPART MARCH 24 ON A THREE-WEEK VISIT TO A NUMBER
OF CAPITALS, IN ORDER TO LAY SOME IMPORTANT GROUNDWORK FOR THE
MAY 6-10 NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING COMMITTEE (NACC) MEETING
IN KABUL. ABDULLAH SAID THAT HIS ITINERARY NOW INCLUDES
BAGHDAD, JIDDA, CAIRO, DUBAI, NEW DELHI, AND JAKARTA, BUT THAT
"OTHER STOPS" WILL PROBABLY BE ADDED ALONG THE WAY. (COMMENT:
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WE ANTICIPATE THAT COLOMBO AND KUWAIT MAY BE INCLUDED.)

2. ABDULLAH STRESSED THAT THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR HIS
UNDERTAKING THIS TRIP IS TO ENSURE THAT THE NACC MEETING
WILL BE FREE OF CONFRONTATIONS AMONG NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT
(NAM) MEMBERS. IN THIS REGARD, HE CITED SUCH POSSIBLE DIVISIVE
ISSUES AS: CUBA'S PRESENT AND FUTURE ROLES IN THE NAM; INTER-

ARAB RIFTS; AND SAHARAN PROBLEMS (INCLUDING THE FORMER SPANISH SAHARA AND THE FRENCH INVOLVEMENT IN CHAD). ALTHOUGH NORTH KOREA IS SENDING A LARGE DELEGATION, ABDULLAH DOES NOT EXPECT A TWO-KOREA PROBLEM TO ARISE. ABDULLAH ADDED THAT THE MAY MEETING WILL SERVE AS AN "IMPORTANT PRELUDE" TO THE NAM MEETING LATER IN THE SUMMER (JULY 25-29) AT BELGRADE, WHICH, IN TURN, WILL BE A PRELUDE TO THE SCHEDULED HAVANA MEETING. AS FOR THE HAVANA SUMMIT IN 1979, ABDULLAH COMMENTED THAT, AS OF RIGHT NOW, "MOST NAM HEADS OF STATE WOULD NOT ATTEND" THE HAVANA MEETING, ALTHOUGH INTERVENING EVENTS MIGHT CAUSE THESE LEADERS TO REASSESS THEIR POSITIONS. ABDULLAH REPORTED THAT AN IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF THE RECENT DAOUD-TITO TALKS DEALT WITH THE NEED TO SEE THAT THE NAM REMAINS "TRULY NON-ALIGNED." HE OBSERVED THAT THE TWO LEADERS HAD BEEN BOTHERED BY THE CUBAN SITUATION IN THAT CONTEXT.

3. COMMENT: ABDULLAH'S DEPARTURE FOR FURTHER EXTENSIVE TRAVELS, SO SOON AFTER THE COMPLETION OF PRESIDENT DAOUD'S TWO-WEEK TRIP, UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE THE AFGHANS ATTACH TO A CONFLICT-FREE NACC MEETING IN MAY. WHETHER THE AFGHANS ARE SUCCESSFUL AT MANAGING A RELATIVELY PLACID GATHERING REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT THEY ARE CERTAINLY AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL FOR RANCOR, AND THEY ARE APPARENTLY EXPENDING GREAT EFFORT AND TIME IN TRYING TO HEAD OFF THE DEVELOPMENT OF ANY SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES.

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